



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

3500 Industrial Blvd.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
<http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>

Action Items and Meeting Summary
for the November 16, 2011 Board Meeting at
203 Second Street, Isleton, CA

EXECUTIVE MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Called to Order 9:04 a.m. Jimmie Yee Chaired the meeting in Chair Mary Piepho and Vice Chair Ken Vogel's absence.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The following voting Board members were present: Karen Finn, Mike Eaton, Karen Mitchoff, Mike McGowan, Pat Kemp, Dan Taylor and Jimmie Yee.

Other members attending: Tina Andolina attended for Senator Lois Wolk, Steve Chappell and Mark Wilson.

General Public Comments

Public comments were requested at the beginning and end of the meeting. Five public comments were given from members of the public.

1. A member of the public asked if the Army Core of Engineers (ACOE) is involved in current planning efforts for set-back levees. Panel member Stu Townsley, ACOE, answered that the ACOE is involved in this type of planning at a "40 thousand foot level", but not at a specific project level. He said that the ACOE and Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) are partners in these planning efforts, but not on specific projects yet.
2. A member of the public read an article from the Stockton Record entitled "Striped Bass are Pawns in Water Games" (Peter Ottesen, November 16, 2011) to inform the Board of the latest events surrounding the newly proposed take regulations for striped bass in the Delta.
3. A member of the public informed the Board of a Department of Fish and Game meeting to take place in Rio Vista on November 27. The focus of this meeting is to discuss the proposed changes in regulations for striped bass take. This individual inquired whether the BDCP process would be reevaluating the

proposed regulations and assessing them through a public process.

4. A member of the public asked how often the ACOE inspects levees in light of the Katrina events. Stu Townsley (ACOE) responded that levees are regularly inspected by local and state entities and that the ACOE provides oversight on these processes for quality assurance purposes. He also noted that it is very costly to have the federal government involved in these processes and that their involvement is usually focused on emergency circumstances.
5. A member of the public, who is also a landowner on the Mokelumne River near Georgiana Slough, raised the issue of increasing silt in the channel where she keeps her boat. Increasing amounts of silt have impacted her ability to move her boat in and out of its slip at low tide. She described the decreasing margin within the channel and wanted to know who she could contact regarding this issue. She also mentioned the issue of water hyacinth and its impacts on boating and waterways at the Village West Marina.

Action Items

1. Staff will begin to research the development of a 5 to 10 year Finance Plan for the Delta Conservancy and will report progress at the January 18, 2012 board meeting.
2. As part of Kearns and West's initial steps in developing the strategic plan, staff will send board members a proposed list of individuals or organizations to be interviewed with a request for additional people or organizations to be contacted.
3. Staff will email Karen Mitchoff the missing section materials for agenda item 8.1A.
4. Staff will send to Board Members CD copies of the October 18, 2011 "Changing Our Perspectives" conference, as well as the website links once the video is posted on the Conservancy website.
5. Staff will email board members information on the December Legislative Subcommittee meeting time and location. (December 16, 1-3pm, California Land Trust Office, 1029 K Street, Suite 48, Sacramento – Meeting was subsequently cancelled).
6. Staff will contact the Conservancy's Delta Protection Advisory Committee member Arnie Simonsen, to inform him that a second DPAC meeting is expected in early 2012.
7. Staff will convene a panel of experts on climate change and sea level rise in the Delta for the January 18 board meeting. Staff will also present the draft Delta Conservancy's Climate Change Policy for the Board's consideration and will brief the Board on a Conservancy hosted symposium on climate change and the Delta region to take place in the first half of 2012.

Panel on Flood Control Activities in the Delta

Tom Zuckerman, representing the Reclamation Districts (RDs):

Summary

- RDs are responsible for building and maintaining levees within their districts and for flood control activities in their districts.
- The RDs obtain funding through fees collected from local landowners and the cost of levee maintenance is shared with the State through the Levees Subventions Program.

Concerns the RDs currently have include:

- Implementation of large-scale conservation plans (i.e. BDCP) that represent approximately 25% of arable lands,
- Not all land slated for restoration was historically tidal, some areas were simply overflow areas,
- Evaporation is an issue for restoration projects and loss of water could be greater than that used for farming,
- Increased loads of methylmercury,
- Lack of “Good Neighbor” policies for lands adjacent to proposed restoration sites, these policies should include discussion of seepage,
- Conversion of agricultural lands to restored areas results in loss of tax revenue.

Suggestions for possible roles for the Delta Conservancy:

- Developing and restoring terrestrial corridors that could result in environmental solutions without taking out prime agricultural land. Mr. Zuckerman referenced the San Joaquin River corridor as an example of these types of efforts,
- Preserving agriculture in the Delta while promoting recreation and building up the local economy.

Dave Mraz, Division of Flood Management, Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Summary

- DWR’s goals and objectives include: infrastructure integrity, international trade, recreational attributes, flood protection, habitat restoration, contributing to State’s economy, and water supply;
- DWR manages the Levees Maintenance Subventions Program which is tightly linked with the local efforts for levee maintenance and protection;
- DWR has jurisdiction over: flood control and protection; Levees Subventions Program and Delta levees special programs (in the Primary zone-project and

non-project levees, in the Secondary zone-project levees); levee classifications; and FESSRO/Flood Programs which overlap with Delta Stewardship Council, BDCP, Delta Conservancy jurisdiction and efforts.

Suggestions for possible roles for the Delta Conservancy:

- Hold title to lands designated for restoration to create an organized approach for long-term operations & management and for adaptive management purposes,
- Help to organize needed resources, address changes when needed and serve as a single point of contact for legislators,
- Develop an economic evaluation of land used for habitat purposes, including identifying a dollar value resulting from land restoration that could offset the loss of traditional land uses, such as agriculture,
- Document and monitor performance of restored areas.

Stu Townsley, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), South Pacific Division

Summary

- Mr. Townsley's division coordinates ACOE efforts internally and externally with State entities,
- ACOE is given its budget from Congress and does not have latitude to develop programmatic budget. It is limited to projects that are authorized and funded by Congress.

Responsibilities within their jurisdiction include:

- Developing the Levees Feasibility Study for Delta Islands,
- Developing the report that inventories Delta flood projects and compares to ACOE strategic plan to ensure flood is factored into projects, this report also informs the budgetary process,
- Involvement in CALFED Levee Stability Program,
- Maintaining ship channels and ports,
- Identifying beneficial uses of dredged materials,
- Regulatory authority including: 404 CWA permits, in-stream projects, 408 permits

Suggestions for possible roles for the Delta Conservancy:

- Partnering with ACOE for permits.

Consent Calendar Items

The Board approved the Action Items and Meeting Summary for the Board Meeting on September 21, 2011, with Mike McGowan abstaining and ayes from Karen Finn, Mike Eaton, Karen Mitchoff, Pat Kemp, Dan Taylor and Jimmie Yee.

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Meeting Adjourned 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted on January 6, 2012

Susan Roberts, Board Liaison, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Contact

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